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*Peggy Nichols*  
Name: Peggy Nichols

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application for:

Thomas A. SILVESTRINI

Serial No.: <sup>08</sup>09/993,946

Filing Date: December 18, 1997

For: CORNEAL IMPLANT METHOD AND  
PLIABLE IMPLANT THEREFOR

Confirmation No.: 5937

Examiner: D. Willse

Group Art Unit: 3738

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Final Office Action issued October 4, 2004, by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the Final Office Action originally was due January 4, 2005. Enclosed herewith are a Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time, Notice of Appeal and authorization to charge the amount of any fees due to the undersigned attorney's Deposit Account. The filing of the extension of time and payment of the fees extends the deadline to respond to the Final Office Action to April 4, 2005. In view of the filing of the Notice of Appeal and payment of the fee, this application is pending today. Accordingly, the application is pending and this Response is timely filed.

The Listing of the Claims begins on page 2 of this reply.

The Remarks begin on page 5 of this reply.

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